

## VIII.

### NOTE ON A HOARD OF SILVER COINS FOUND IN KIRKCUDBRIGHT-SHIRE. BY GEORGE MACDONALD, LL.D., CURATOR OF COINS.

On 11th April of the present year there was turned up by the plough, on the farm of Blackhills, in the parish of Parton, the largest hoard of Edwardian silver pennies that has come to light in Scotland, or indeed in Britain, for a considerable number of years. According to information kindly furnished by Mr John Whitby, the tenant, it appears that the discovery was made at a spot about 400 yards from the river Urr, and about 700 yards from the site of Corsock Tower. Here, between two oblong arable hills, there is a stretch of meadow ground, the soil of which is a sort of black moss or loam—not peat—containing much rotted hazel scrub. Its condition to-day suggests that it may at one time have been a swampy bog. In ordinary seasons it is very soft in wet weather; a pole can be pushed 6 feet down and pulled out again without difficulty. So far as Mr Whitby is aware, no attempt had ever been made to plough it before. But this year the abnormally dry spring seemed to offer a good opportunity for getting it levelled, so that the hay might be more easily cut.

The coins had been concealed in a wooden “ brose-cap,” which lay only some 6 inches below the surface, and which was consequently broken into fragments when it was struck by the coulter. There is

reason to believe that through the efforts of Mr Whitby and his ploughman, Charles Clark, reinforced by the zeal of subsequent searchers, practically the entire contents of the vessel were recovered. The total number of pieces handed over to the Crown authorities, and passed on by the Exchequer to the Museum for report, was 2067. Although only a few of the individual specimens were of sufficient rarity to justify their acquisition for the National Collection, the size of the hoard was such as to suggest that a detailed examination might throw some light on the vexed question of the proper classification of the pennies of the Edwards. The whole find was therefore subjected to a very careful scrutiny, the results of which it is hoped to publish elsewhere very shortly. In the meantime the following summary may be of interest as a brief record:—

## SCOTTISH LONG-CROSS PENNIES.

Alexander III.	29
John Balliol	8
Robert Bruce	6

## PENNIES OF EDWARD I. AND II.

*(a) English.*

London	1020
Canterbury	494
Durham (Episcopal)	175
Durham (Ordinary)	49
Berwick	69
Bury St Edmunds	49
Bristol	44
York	42
Newcastle	18
Lincoln	9
Hull	7
Robert de Hadelie	4
Chester	3
Exeter	2

*(b) Irish.*

Dublin	19
Waterford	9

HOARD OF SILVER COINS FOUND IN KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE. 571

FOREIGN STERLINGS.	
Various Mints . . . . .	12
HALFPENNY OF EDWARD I.	
Berwick . . . . .	1
FARTHING OF EDWARD I. OR II.	
London . . . . .	1

One of the Alexander III. pennies was very curious. It had been a plated piece, and was represented only by the thin skin of silver which had framed the reverse, and which survived virtually uninjured. This, along with eight of the other coins, was retained for the Museum. Internal evidence made it fairly clear that the hoard had been deposited in its resting-place about 1320 A.D. Mr Whitby mentions that about seventy years ago a find of similar pieces, which were unfortunately scattered, was made on the farm of Nether Corsock, about three-quarters of a mile from the Blackhills meadow which proved so unexpectedly fruitful.